

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7899

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FOR KRIEGER FROM CALDERHEAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AFSP MX

SUBJECT: ABOLISHMENT OF POSITIONS

REF STATE 209877, MEXICO 7092

1. TO MEET DEPT'S DESIRE TO RETAIN AT MEXICO CITY POSITIONS OF COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR AND AMERICAN SECRETARY WHO SUPPORTS HIM, WHILE AT SAME TIME FULFILLING DEPT'S REQUIREMENT TO ELIMINATE TWO AMERICAN PROGRAM POSITIONS, EMBASSY PROPOSES FOLLOWING SOLUTION:

(A) ABOLISH ON AUG. 30, 1977 COMMERCIAL ATTACHE POSITION (20-MX-389), NOW FILLED BY FSO-3 NORMAN BOUTON, AND (B) ABOLISH ON APRIL 30, 1977 ECONOMIC OFFICE POSITION (20-MX-252) NOW FILLED BY FSO-7 FENISE SILBER.

2. THIS SOLUTION WILL ELIMINATE ONE OF EIGHT COMMERCIAL AND ONE OF SIX ECONOMIC POSITIONS (EXCLUDING E/C COUNSELOR AND HIS AMERICAN SECRETARY IN BOTH COUNTS). WHILE LOSS OF THESE TWO POSITIONS REPRESENTS UNFORTUNATE WEAKENING OF OUR OVERALL E/C EFFORT, INCONVENIENCE FACTOR FOR BOTH ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL UNITS IS EQUALIZED BY SELECTING ONE POSITION FROM EACH OF THESE TWO HIGH PRIORITY AREAS OF ENDEAVOR.

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3. IN PROPOSING 1A ABOVE, EMBASSY TAKE NOTE OF FACT THAT

COMMERCIAL ATTACHE FSO-3, NORMAN BOUTON WILL COMPLETE EIGHTEEN MONTHS AT MEXICO CITY ON 8/7/77 AND BE ELIGIBLE FOR HL/TR UNDER 18-MONTH EXCEPTION RULE. HIS DEPARTURE AT THAT TIME WOULD MAKE POSITION AVAILABLE ON TIMETABLE SATISFACTORY TO DEPT, AND WOULD ALSO ELIMINATE COMMERCIAL ATTACHE TITLE IN KEEPING WITH INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION (SEE SEPT. 1975 REPORT). THIS STEP WOULD AVOID PRESENT DOUBLING UP OF LEADERSHIP AND CONFUSING DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY CREATED BY HAVING BOTH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE.

4. WITH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR STANDORD RETIRING DEC. 31, 1976 EMBASSY PROPOSED THAT FSO BOUTON EITHER TEMPORARILY BE GIVEN COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR TITLE OR BE DESIGNATED ACTING COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR DURING PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH AUG. 7, 1977. MEANWHILE, DEPT CAN BEGIN PROCESS OF SELECTING AN FSO-1/2 OFFICER FOR PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT AS COUNSELOR WITH EOD AUG. 1, 1977.

5. EMBASSY REMINDS DEPT THAT FSO-7 JAMES R. LIBERA HAS ALREADY BEEN ASSIGNED TO REPLACE MS. SILBER IN POSITION 20-MX-252 WITH PROJECTED EOD DATE OF MARCH 1977. IT IS REQUESTED THAT MR. LIBERA'S ASSIGNMENT STAND FIRM BUT THAT HE BE ASSIGNED INSTEAD TO COMMERCIAL OFFICER POSITION 20-MX-305 VICE FSO-5 J. GUY GWYNNE. MR. GWYNNE HAS EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR TRANSFER IN MAY 1977, AFTER 2-1/2 YEARS IN MEXICO CITY, RATHER THAN COMPLETING HIS FULL THREE-YEAR TOUR WHICH WOULD NOT END UNTIL NOVEMBER 1977. THIS PROPOSAL WOULD SEEM TO SERVE THE FAIR INTERESTS OF OFFICERS CONCERNED AND OF SERVICE AS WHOLE.

6. THE E/C COUNSELOR AND COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR POINT OUT THAT ELIMINATION OF ONE POSITION AND INCORPORATION OF ANOTHER INTO JUNIOR OFFICER ROTATIONAL PROGRAM WILL REQUIRE SOME MODIFICATIONS IN COUNTRY COMMERCIAL PROGRAM.  
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